Testimony in SUPPORT of SB284:

An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Ada Fenick, and I am a pediatrician working at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT and seeing patients here. I am writing on my own behalf and for my patients, and not on behalf of the Yale School of Medicine nor for the CWCSEO, of which I am a member

I write to <u>support</u> of SB284 which will expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status. This bill is an important step in making sure children who have immigrated to the US, regardless of the method, have access to healthcare and can grow to be healthy and productive US and CT citizens.

I have practiced in New Haven for nearly 20 years, first in the Yale Pediatric Primary Care Center, and now at Fair Haven Community Health Center. Throughout that time I have been astonished at the clinical needs of my patients, and have witnessed time and again how some families delay care until it becomes an emergency situation due to their lack of insurance. Our children of CT should be protected in their health so that they can fulfill their promise.

I support S.B. 284 ,and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,

Ada Fenick, MD New Haven, CT